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THE LAST NEW NOVEL,
THE LAST NEW PLAY,
THE LAST NEW BOOK OF TRAVELS,
THE LAST NEW POEM,
THE LAST NEW MUSIC,
THE LAST NEW ENGRAVING,

OF EACH WEEK.

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# TO THE READER.

WITH the present Number of the "LONDON JOURNAL" the First Volume is completed. The task which the Editor had the hardihood to undertake — *that of telling the truth and the whole truth of New Books* — has been more laborious than pleasant; yet, still steadfast in intention, and undaunted by difficulty, he looks hopefully forward to the completion of a series of the "LONDON JOURNAL," of which the present is but the First Volume. Backed by the Public, he is sure of eventual success — *for the Public are the book-buyers;* and however slow those who speculate upon the publication of books may be to recognise a stranger who ventures To tell the Truth About their Wares, they must eventually feel it as their best and truest interest to support him. It may be very desirable, when a publisher's money has been sunk upon the production of a Bad Book, to get a host of venal "*critics*" (Heaven forgive the desecration of the name!) to puff the volumes down the throats of a book-hungry public; but — to say nothing of the injury to national taste, and the disgrace to the English Press — it is still the real interest of the publisher to Have the Truth Told. Better for him to have for sale Good than Bad Books, and hence beneficial to him the existence of cheap and honest Literary Reviews, which, disdaining to sell their opinions, assume to sway the Public towards the patronage of the sound and genuine in Literature, in place of the worthless twaddle, the false sentiment, the rotten theories, and the questionable morality, which together have so long secured the support of publishers, and through their influence of late have been so systematically thrust upon the attention of English Society.

F. K. H.

*January* 1. 1844.

BRITISH MUSEUM

# INDEX.


ABORIGINES OF AUSTRALIA, anecdote of the stoicism of the . . . 212
Abyssinia, Johnston's residence in 288. 305. 321. 338
Acorn, lines addressed to the . . 236
Aërolites, origin of . . . 225
"Afloat and Ashore," review of Fenimore Cooper's novel of . . 38
Africa, mode of travelling in, 9.; character of the scenery of, 241.; audience with a king in . . . . 241
"Agincourt," review of James's romance of . . . . 277
Agincourt, the battle of . . . 329
Ainsworth, William, memoir of . . 56
Alchemy, belief of the Orientals in . 140
Algeria, review of Blofield's work on . 245
Algiers, description of the palace of the dey of, 246.; the shops of, 246.; mode of shampooing in, 247.; the Moors of, 265.; the Khabyles of, 266.; the Turks of . . . . . 267
Allee Allee, the African Rothschild, character of . . . . 7
Amazon, a British . . . . 92
"Amber Witch," review of the . 110
America, South, results and rewards of British enterprise in . . . 249
Americans, humorous characteristic of the . . . . . 14
"Angler's Daughter," engraving of the 53
Anglo-Saxon race in America, amount of the . . . . . 30
Anne, Queen, strange interview of, with the Duke of Marlborough . . 244
"Anti-Coningsby," review of . . 278
Arabs, dread of cities by the, 235.; their opinion of the English . . . 299
"Arthur Arundel," review of . . 168
Ashanti, description of the scenery of the kingdom of, 241.; audience with the king of, 241.; depravity and condition of the inhabitants of, 242.; human sacrifices in, 242.; description of the silver cash-box for the king of . 251
Atmosphere, foreign bodies in the . 225
Attah, composition of the . . 323
Auction in the country, description of an 79
August, Andrew Winter's poem on . 78
Auld Robin Gray, origin of the ballad of . . . . . 276
Avitabile, General, memoir of . . 55

BAKER, the character of a . . 55
Backwoods, a tale of the . . 99
Baden-Baden, prevalence of gambling at . . . . . 80
Ball play, amusement of, in Abyssinia . 92
"Ballads and other Poems," Review of Whittier's . . . . 180
Banquet in Abyssinia, description of a . 200
Barlow, Rev. J., review of his Theory on Insanity . . . . . 336
Barr's Cabul, Review of . . . 39
Barrett's Poems, review of . . 134. 145
Barry Cornwall, memoir of . . 114
Bavaria, king of, description of the . 140
Beaumont Institution, concert at the . 281
Beckford, Mr., anecdotes of . 188, 199
Bedouin Arabs, manner of fighting among the, 112.; description of an encampment of 140. 163.; Bedouin women, description of . . 188
Berberah, the fair of . . . . 7
Bernadotte, anecdote of his antipathy to dogs . . . . . 139
"Betrothed, the" review of . . 342
Birds, the amusements of, 90.; the peculiarities of . . . . . 176
Bivouac on the river Jordan . . 209
Black mail, mode of levying . . 25
Blackwater, review of O'Flanagan's Tour to the, 50.; the vale of the . 50. 149
Blessing of the Beasts, the ceremony of . . . . . 61
Blessington, Countess of, memoir of the . . . . . 235
"Blind Man and his Guide," review of the . . . . . 132
Block-House, the tale of the 238. 256. 270. 280. 302. 319. 334
Blofield's' Algeria, review of . . 245
Bonhomme Richard, account of the action between the, and the Serapis . 196
Books and prints (foreign), act to regulate the duties on . . 315
Boroughs, the privilege of . . 211
Bothwell, Lady Anne, lament of . 270
Bourcicault, Mr., critique upon his farce, "Old Heads and Young Hearts" . 264
Bowring, Dr., memoir of . . 249
Brandy, the adulterations of . . 188
Bread, the deterioration of . . 266
Bride of Corinth, lines on the . . 11
Bridge, Miss Mary, heroic conduct of . 293
"British Ballads," review of the book of . . . . . 260. 285
British enterprise, results of . . 249
"British and Foreign Quarterly Journal," review of the . . . 48
Buffalo hunting, account of the perils attending . . . . 29
Bunbury's "Rides in the Pyrenees," review of . . . . 157
Bunyan, John, Maginn's lines on the grave of, 45.; memoir of . . 309
Bussex, description of the grave at . 293
Butler's Poems, review of . . 110
Byrne, the Irish giant, skeleton of, at the Hunterian Museum . . 282

CABRERA, memoir of, 120.; system of recruiting adopted by, 120.; instance of his barbarity, 120; personal appearance of, 121.; terror inspired by his name, 164.; anecdotes of 144. 176. 200
Calculating Machine of Mr. Babbage, mode of working the . . . 91
Calcutta hunt, account of the . . 199
"Camp and Cabinet," review of Colonel Tucker's tales of the . . . 119
"Camp of Refuge," review of Knight's volume of the . . . . . 279
Campbell, Thomas, anecdotes of . 128
Campbell's funeral, Horace Smith's lines on . . . . . 77
Canton, the beggars of . . . . 204
Canute the Great, law of, respecting hunting . . . . . 283
Caravan, mode of levying Black Mail on a 25
Carlyle, comparison of, between the mind and body labourer . . 223
Carp, mode of angling for the . . 127
Carpenter, character of a . . 66
Carr, Robert, letter of Sir Walter Raleigh . . . . . 148
"Cevennes, Rebellion in the," review of Tieck's novel of the . . . 326
Ceylon, description of the temples of, 44.; a day's sport in . . . 184
Chair, the value of a . . . . 175
Chameleon, origin of the story of its living on air . . . . . 266
Charlecote Park, description of . . 295
Charles I., romantic journey of, to Gravesend . . . . . 128
"Charity"—a Print, notice of . . 135
Chatham, Earl of, eccentricities of the . 250
Chess, attachment of the Moors to the game of . . . . . 283
Chesterfield House, origin of the billiard room of . . . . 331
"Chimes, the," review of Boz's new work . . . . . 317, 318
China and India, review of Miss Corner's History of . . . . . 55
"China and the Chinese," review of Points and Pickings of Information about the . . . . . 204
"Chronicles of the Bastile," review of 124
Churches in London, lines on the . 29
Churruck Poojah, description of the . 103
Circumstantial evidence, instance of the importance and necessity of . . 29
Climates, changes of . 290. 304. 320
Coal, the want of, for French steamboats 68
Cock-fighter, the death of a . . 109
Coffee, hints how to make . . 127
Commons, House of, a sketch in the . 12
Como, Lake of, a summer residence on the . . . . . 79. 84
Constantinople, a tale of the plague at, 45.; an illustration of life in . . 237
Corcovado, a story of the . . 170
Cordova, a legend of . . . . 57
Corinth, the Bride of . . . . 11
Cornwall, Barry, lines written by, 12.; memoir of . . . . . 114
Cornwall Mechanics' Institute, annual meeting of the . . . 312. 343
Court, General, memoir of . . 55
"Court-Partial," review of the . 262
"Curate, or Hopes," Bremer's tale of the 28
Craik's "History of British Commerce," review of . . . . . 243
Cromwell, Oliver, account of his residence at Windsor Castle . . 164
Crowland Abbey, how cleared of the Normans . . . . . 280

DAGUERREOTYPE, a modification of the . 80
Dampier bread, description of the . 194
David, the painter, a passage from the life of . . . . . 136
Dead Sea, description of the, 173.; curious effect of the buoyancy of its waters, 174.; composition of its waters 174
Death warrants, mode of deciding, in Lord Eldon's time . . . . 30
Defturdar, cruelty practised by the, in Kordofan . . . . . 23
"Destinies, the Two," review of Sir H. Doyle's poem of . . . . 97
Devil worship, ceremony of . . 199
Dew Point, origin of the . . 240
Dickens, Charles, memoir of . . 198
Doctors in Ireland, character of the . 188
Dog stealers, their manner of proceeding described . . . . . 231
Dogs, antipathy of Bernadotte to . 139
Dongolavi beauties, description of the head-dress of the . . . . 23
Drapers' Association, meeting of the . 315
Dreams, Night Noises, and Phantoms, Ollier's paper upon . . . . 172
Drought, influence of a season of, on vegetation in Australia . . 194
Drunkenness, the ruling vice of South Australia . . . . . 194
"Duchess May," extracts from Barrett's poem of . . . . . 145
Duel in Kordofan, mode of fighting a . 23
Dulhull, description of the town of . 8

EARTHQUAKE IN HAYTI, the . . 66
Earthquakes, the prevention of . 79
Education of females, remarks of Sam Slick upon . . . . . 283
Eldon, Lord, memoir of, 42.; anecdotes of . . . . . 30. 104
Elections in the olden time, manner of proceeding in . . . . . 152
Elephant, mode of hunting the, in Kordofan, 24.; value of, in Kordofan . 44
Elizabeth, Queen of Bohemia, the residence of . . . . . 103
Ellen, the story of . . . . . 97
Ely, Isle of, used as a refuge by the Saxons . . . . . 279
Emancipation of Industry, review of the report of the Society for the . . 248
"English Grammar," review of Chambers' work on . . . . . 242
"Englishwoman in Egypt," review of the . . . . . 88. 145
"Eothen," review of . . . . 121
Epitaphs, thoughts on . . . . 297
"Evenings of a Working Man," review of . . . . . 54
Exhilaration, observations on . . 264

FACTORY LIFE IN AMERICA, Miss Martineau's letter on, 100.; description of 220
"Facts and Fictions," review of Mrs. Postans' . . . . . 62
Fair of Berberah, description of the . 7
"Falconer's Son," the engraving of the 53
False Bay, description of a shoal in . 103
Farmers, hints to . . . . 335
Farm-house in Shoa, description of a . 306
Fegee Islands, formation of a new colony in the . . . . . 14
Fenelon, anecdote of . . . . 215
Feudalism, destruction of, by trade . 30
Feudal system of Abyssinia, description of the . . . . . 306
Fingers, mode of eating with the, in Egypt . . . . . 266
First Love, lines written by Goëthe on 12
Fishermen, superstitions of . 152. 164
Fishes, the habits of . . . . 343
Fishing village in Scotland . . 115
Flute, lines to my . . . . . 235
Fogs, cause of . . . . . 225
Fontanier's "Voyage in India and the Persian Gulf," review of . . 49
"Foreign Quarterly," review of the . 48
Fouqué's works, review of . . 291
Foxes, the flying, Campbell's description of . . . . . 212
Freeman, Rev. J., review of his work on Western Africa . . . . 241
Fry, Mrs., benevolent exertions of, at Newgate . . . . . 216

GARDENER AND THE LION, the tale of the 23
Geedar Gullie, the pass of . . . 40
Gentleman, Lord Eldon's definition of a 104
Gentlemen of Sindh, description of the 152
Geographical Society, Royal, meetings of the . . . . 281. 313
Gipsies' Tragedy, the tale of the . 125
"Given-up," the poem of . . . 14
Glyphography, description of the process of . . . . . 324
Gore, Mrs., critique on her comedy of "Quid Pro Quo" . . . . 1
Grampus delphinicus orca, fossil skeleton of the . . . . . 282
"Grandfather," the review of Pickering's novel . . . . . 51
Gravesend, a romance of . . . 128
Greek family, description of a . . 200
Greeks, opinions of the, respecting the power of wealth . . . . 151
Greenwich, description of a whitebait dinner at . . . . . 13
Gresham, Sir Thomas, memoir of . 218
Grimm, Baron, memoir of . . 251
Guano, a tale of . . . . . 61
Guano, abundance of, in Ichaboe . 27
Gurkhas and English grenadiers, instance of the friendship subsisting between the . . . . 68
Gymnastic exercises, universal use of, among the Romans . . . 211

HAIR-DRESSING, the Arab mode of . 68
Hansard's "Address for the Protection of the Young," review of . . 207
Hansard's "Thanks to the Army and Navy," review of . . . 207
Haunted house at Cairo, the . . 88
Havannah, mode of visiting in the . 266
Hayti, the earthquake in . . 66
"Heart's Migivings," the engraving of the . . . . . 53
Henry III., the rebellions in the reign of 200
Henry IV., attempted assassination of . 188
Hermit crabs, remarkable emigration of, 8.; mode of breaking the shell of the, by the seagull . . . . . 25
Hessians, description of the . . 91
Hibernia, origin of the word . . 51
"High Life in New York," review of . 20
Hindoos, religious tortures of the . 103
History, the philosophy of . . 331
Holyoake's "Practical Grammar," review of . . . . . 242
Homes for the poor, the new . . 232
Hood, Thomas, memoir of . . 210
Horace, a hint from . . . 112
House of Lords, sketch of the members of the . . . . . 76
Howard the philanthropist, memoir of 215
Howitt's "Hymns and Fireside Stories," review of . . . . . 318
Human sacrifices in Ashanti, instances of . . . . . 242
Hunterian Museum, curiosities at the . 282
Hurricane at sea, description of a . 83

ICHABOE, description of the island of . 27
"Imagination and Fancy," review of Leigh Hunt's work on . . 311
Imagination, instances of the illusions of the . . . . . 172
Inamorato Mia, Leon de Lorme's poem of . . . . . 92
Innkeepers on the Lake of Como, description of a family of . . . 79
Insanity, a new theory of . . 336
Insect voided by the nostrils, case of an 283
"Instinct," review of Lord Brougham's Dialogues on . . . . 243
"Ireland and her Rulers," review of . 168
Iron foundry at Berlin, description of an . . . . . 212
Israeli, Benjamin d', memoir of . 267

JAMES I., interview of, with Lady Raleigh, 149.; noble conduct of the son of, at that interview . . . . 149
Janee, the Belooche, the history of . 160
Jarvis's sermon, review of . . 124
Jeffreys, Judge, cruelties practised by . 294
Jew with Two Heads, the tale of the . 237
Johnston's Travels in Southern Abyssinia, review of . . . . 7. 25
Johnston's Residence in Abyssinia, summary of the Journal of:—Determination to proceed to Debra Behran, 288.; description of the Muscal, 288.; Abyssinian method of washing, 289.; engagement of a housekeeper, 287.; description of an Abyssinian road, 290.; reception by an Abyssinian family, 290.; family connections of Walderheros, 305.; description of a Shoan farm-house, 305.; the tenure of land in Abyssinia, 306.; account of the Abyssinian feudal system, 306.; low rental of houses in Shoa, 306.; departure for Ankobar, 307.; arrival at Musculo's house, 307.; anecdote of the *abandon* style of Shoan hospitality, 307.; stay at Musculo's, 321.; start for Torramusk, 322.; meet with Dr. Roth, 322.; beetle hunting, 322.; journey from Koom Dingi, 322.; residence of Abihu, 322.; leave for Debra Berhan, 323.; description of the town of Debra Berhan, 323.; my residence in Debra Berhan, 338.; meet with old friends, 338.; Walderheros returns to Aliu Amba, 238.; bed in the manger, 339.; morning of the muscal, 339.; the native drama, 339.; interview with the negoos, 339.; the festival . 339
Jordan, a bivouac on the . . 209
Journalist, the life of a . . . 19
Judy White, Jonathan Slick's character of . . . . . 43

KHABYLES, description of the . . 266
Keats, John, lines by the late . . 127
Khyberries, retaliating cruelty of the Sikhs towards the . . . 40
Killem, description of the . . 224
Kindness, instances of the power of . 215
Knight's Weekly Volumes, review of . 87

Knighthood, the ceremony of, among the Saxons . . . . . 282
Kordofan, review of Ignatius Pallme's work on . . . . . 22
Kuvan, Lieut. Selby's ascent of the . 281

Labour, cheapness of, not identical with low wages . . . . . 211
Labourer of England, description of a . 310
"Lacchyrmæ Ecclesiæ," review of . 135
Ladies, a hint for the . . . . . 250
Lawrence, Sir Thomas, opinion of Mr. Beckford respecting the abilities of . 199
Lay of the Labourer, the . . . . 217
Lea, description of the river . . . 194
Leschi, General, an incident in the life of . . . . . 151
Leigh, Lord, review of his "Walks in the Country," 65.; epigram on . 191
Line, ceremony observed on crossing the . . . . . 262
Lion and the gardener, the tale of the . 23
Lion, mode of hunting the, in Kordofan . . . . . 24
Lion ant, anecdote of the . . . . 266
Literary "Lions," memoirs of:—William Ainsworth, 56.; Professor Wilson, 90.; Barry Cornwall, 114.; Lady Morgan, 138.; Serjeant Talfourd, 163.; Horace Twiss, 187.; Charles Dickens, 198.; Thomas Hood, 210.; Samuel Rogers, 222.; Samuel Lover, 224.; Countess of Blessington, 235.; Dr. Bowring, 249.; Benjamin D'Israeli . 267
"Little Milliner," review of the . . 310
Log Cabin, the tale of the, 95. 106. 118. 130. 143. 154. 166. 179. 191. 202. 213
London churches, lines on the . . . 29
Louis Philippe, the life of . . . . 182
Louis the Seventh, anecdote of . . 299
Love—a Flatterer, lines by F. K. Hunt on . . . . . 25
Lover, Samuel, memoir of . . . . 224
Lynch law, an instance of, at Tajourah . 8
Lyndhurst, Lord, anecdote of . . . 67

M'Kay's "Recreations of Leisure Hours" review of . . . . . 205
Madmán, history of an English, in Italy 115
Madras, description of the town of . 298
Magazines, reviews of the, 70. 123. 169. 216. 230. 295
Magician of Cairo, exposure of the imposture of a . . . . . 139
Maginn, Dr., lines of, at the grave of John Bunyan . . . . . 45
Mahometans, belief of the, in Christianity . . . . . 140
Malaria, causes of . . . . . 225
"Man without a Profession," review of Rowcroft's novel of the . . . 156
"Manesty, John," review of Maginn's novel of . . . . . 109
Manzoni's "Promessi Sposi," review of the translation of . . . . 342
Marlborough, Duke of, treatment of, by Queen Anne . . . . . 244
Marlborough, Duchess of, the resignation of the gold key by the . . . 245
Martineau, Miss, letter from, on the American factory system . . . 100
Martineau, Miss, letter of, on Mesmerism . . . . . 273
Mathews, Charles, anecdote of . . . 216
Mechanics' Institutes, address to . . 248
Mechanics' Institutes, communications from . . 281. 296. 312. 327. 343
Medhurst, Mr., the antiquarian discoveries of . . . . . 263
Mediterranean, review of Allan's Tour in the . . . . . 301
Mehemed Ali, conquest of Kordofan by, 23.; slave hunts of . . . . 185
Meredith's "Sketches of New South Wales," review of . . . . . 192
Merit, the Chinese scale of . . . . 205
Mesmerism, effect of, on Miss Martineau . . . . . 273
Midas, the modern . . . . . 10
Milk, general use of, among the Dankalli . . . . . 67
Miller, Susan, the tale of . . . . 220
Mind and body labourer, Carlyle's comparison of the . . . . . 223
Mississippi, extent of the Valley of the . 212
Model Prison, Dr. Roden's account of the discipline, &c. of the . 171. 176
Monks of Jerusalem, self-devotion of the . . . . . 224
"Monmouth, the Duke of," review of Roberts's Life, &c. of . . . . 292
Monomaniac, the Confessions of a . . 253
Montgomery's "Law of Kindness," review of . . . . . 214
Moors of Algiers, description of the, 265.; their fondness for chess . 283
Moorish robber, the tale of a . . . 232
Moray Frith, a night's fishing in the . 162
Morgan, Lady, memoir of . . . . 138
Morn—a Persian lyric . . . . . 219
Moselle, the scenery of the, 75.; the peasantry of the . . . . . 103
Much-he-had, the tale of, 104.; the tale of the brother of . . . . . 124
Mulgrave, Earl of, description of the character of . . . . . 168
Musical of Abyssinia, description of the . 288
Musical gossip . . . . 158. 181
Musical Notation, review of Wallbridge's Sequential System of . . . . 112
Myrrh, description of the gum . . . 151

Napoleon Buonaparte, anecdote of . 151
Natural History, review of Waterton's Essays on . . . . . 60
Naturalist, the advantage of being a . 61
"Neighbours, the," review of Miss Bremer's novel of . . . . . 89
New South Wales, review of Meredith's sketches of . . . . . 192
New York, description of an evening party in . . . . . 20
Nicholas, Emperor, private life of the . 13
Niger expedition, mortality in the . 212
Norbury, Lord Chief Justice, anecdote of . . . . . 266
Normandy, a tale of, 35. 46. 59. 69. 81. 93. 105. 117. 129. 141. 153. 165. 177. 189. 201
"North British Review," review of the 89
"Novelets, Old English," review of Knight's volume of . . . . 279

Oak, the Fate of the . . . . . 12
Oberlin, John Frederick, brief memoir of . . . . . 215
"Ocean Thoughts," review of . . . 82
O'Flanagan's "Historical Tour to the Blackwater," review of . . . . 50
"Old Heads and Young Hearts," critique upon the play of . . . . 264
Olympic Theatre, critique upon the actors at the . . . . . 248
Olympus, Mount, description of . . 212
Opium smoker, description of a Chinese 204
Out-of-town life, Leigh Hunt's description of . . . . . 127
Overs, John, review of his "Evenings of a Working Man" . . . . 54
Owen, Professor, speech of, at the Lancaster Agricultural Meeting . . 335

Pallme, Ignatius, review of his work on Kordofan . . . . . 22
Palm wine of Abyssinia, description of the . . . . . 116
Parents, power of, among the Romans . 212
Pasha and English traveller, a dialogue between a . . . . . 121
Patmore's Poems, review of . . 33, 44
Paul Jones, an event in the life of . 196
Pauline, Dumas' tale of, 35. 46, 59, 69, 81, 93, 105, 117, 129, 141, 153, 165, 177, 189, 201.
Peasantry of the Moselle, description of the . . . . . 103
Peck's Pudding, the romance of Mrs., 313 327.
Pen and Ink Sketches:—
No. 1. The literary fag-end . 9
No. 2. The journalist . . . 19
No. 3. A pleasant day . . . 41
No. 4. The man I met at Baden-Baden . . . . . 57
No. 5. How to make four hundred pounds in a fortnight . . 180
Penshanger Park, description of, 195.; the picture gallery of . . . . 210
"Peregrine Pultuney," review of . . 82
Persian Gulf, a scene from the . . 68
Persian writers, partiality of, for long sentences . . . . . 283
"Peter Parley's Wonders of the World," review of . . . . 318
Phosphorescence of the sea, description of the . . . . . 92
"Pilgrim's Progress," review of Holloway's illustrated edition of the 24. 208
Pillows, wooden, used for rest in Abyssinia . . . . . 8
"Pitman's Pay," review of . . . 85
Pitt, the Great, eccentricities of . . 250
Plague at Constantinople, a story of the 45
Plague, terror caused by the, on the Turks and Hungarians . . . 121
Plesta, a visit to . . . . . 158
Poet's diamond, origin of the . . . 240
"Poetry of Common Life," review of . 24
"Poetry of Real Life," review of . . 111
Polka, the progress of, in England . 71
Political parables:—
No. 1. Poor Much-he-had . . . 104
No. 2. The brother of poor Much-he-had . . . . . 124
"Poor Puncher," Wilson's poem of . 101
Postans' "Facts and Fictions," review of . . . . . 62
Post-office spy system on the Continent, curious disclosures of the . . . 27
"Prince of Wales's Library," review of the . . . . . 317
Proscribed Knight, the tale of the . 19. 33
"Pyrenees, Rides in the," review of . 157

Quaco Duah, Freeman's interview with . . . . . 241
Quarantine, the laws of, on the borders of the Save . . . . . 121
Queen of Henry III., escape of the, from a London mob . . . . . 200
Queen's visit to the city, Hood's epigram on the . . . . . 232
"Quid pro Quo," review of the comedy 1

Railways, reduction of the fares of . 331
Raleigh, Sir Walter, passages in the life of, 148.; letter of, to Lady Raleigh, 148.; letter of, to Robert Carr respecting the Sherborne Estate . 148
Raleigh, Lady, affecting attachment of, to Sir Walter, 148.; interview of, with James I., respecting the attainder of her husband . . . . . 149
"Rambles in Germany and Italy," review of Mrs. Shelley's . . . 74. 84
"Rambles by Rivers," review of Thorne's work of . . . . . 194
Rattle-snake fight, a . . . . . 176
Rebellion in Ireland, a tale of the . 205
Recruiting, the mode of, pursued in Spain . . . . . 176
Reese, William, self-sacrifice of . . 215
Relics, discovery of ancient, at Leckhampton Hall . . . . . 14
Reviewing, the art of . . . . . 157
Robber, the tale of a Moorish . . 232
Robin Hood, lines on the death and burial of, 285.; conjectures respecting his death, 285.; epitaph on . . 286
Rogers, Samuel, memoir of . . . 222
Romans, gymnastic exercises of the, 211.; power of parental authority among the, 212.; statistics of slavery among the . . . . . 212
Rosas, General, the inhumanity of . 247
Rose gardens of Sindh, the . . . 75
"Rose of Woodlee," review of the novel of . . . . . 291
Rothschild, an African . . . . . 7
Rowcroft's "Man without a Profession," review of . . . . 157

Sabbath Bells in America, lines on hearing the . . . . . 26
Sand storm, description of a . . . 152
Saponaria, a species of the, used for washing in Abyssinia . . . . 280
Satalieh, the surprise of . . . . 197
Sausage Maker's Ghost, the poem of the 296
Saxons, persecutions of the, by the Normans, 279.; manner in which they drove the Normans out of Crowland Abbey, 280.; ceremonial of knighthood among the . . . . . 282
Scala, La, reminiscence of a night at . 151
Schuyler, General, memoir of . . . 131
Science, papers on the progress of:—Foreign bodies in the atmosphere, 225.; origin of the dew point, 240.; means of foretelling the weather, 259.; does the climate of a locality undergo any change? . . . . 290. 304 320
Scorpion, Abyssinian mode of curing the sting of the . . . . . 60
Scotland, a rural scene in . . . . 140
Sea gulls, their manner of breaking the shell of the hermit crab . . . 25
Selby, Lieutenant, account of his ascent of the Kuvan . . . . . 281
Serbelloni villa and its family, history of the . . . . . 113
Servian, forest, a ride in a . . . . 121
Shakspeare, discovery of a MS. play of, 267.; description of the birthplace of . 295
"Shakspeare's Plays," review of the illustrated edition of . . . . 333
Shampooing in Algiers, mode of . . 247
Shelley, Leigh Hunt's character of . 312
Shoa country, description of the . . 164
Shoal in False Bay, description of a . 163
Shopkeepers of Algiers, mode of conducting business by the . . . 152
Shopkeepers in China, description of their manner of puffing . . . 205
Siberia, mode of travelling in, 56.; manner of hunting in . . . . 79
Sights of the streets, the . . . . 184
Sisters of Charity, self devotion of the . 216
Skeletons, discovery of, in Germany . 56
Slave caravan, description of a . . 102
Slave hunts of Mohammed Ali, accounts of the . . . . . 185
Slave snapping, romantic story of . 27
Slavery in old Rome, statistics of . 212
Slick, Jonathan, review of his "High Life in New York," 20.; remarks of, on female education . . . . 283
Smith, Horace, poem of, on Campbell's funeral . . . . . 77
Smyrna, description of the women of, 200.; pertinacity of the Jews of . 211
Snow storm in Scotland, description of a, 64.; an adventure in a . . 310
Soil of the country, value of, how ascertained by its productions . . 315
Southampton Buildings' Mechanics' Institute, concert at the . . 282. 296
Southey's library, description of. . 30
Spain, Washington Irving's legend of the subjugation of, 57.; a criminal case in . . . . . 137
Sphynx, description of the . . . 223
St. Helena, description of the island of . 84
"St. James'," review of Ainsworth's novel of . . . . . 243
St. Januarius, the miracle of . . . 61
Stanhope, Lady Hester, description of, 122.; influence of, upon the Arabs, 12.; death of . . . . . 176
Stewards on the Rhine boats, impositions of the . . . . . 152
Stolen child, the tale of the . . . 99
Storm at sea, description of a . 193. 224
Stranger's guide to the metropolis, the . 298
Subaltern, sketch of a . . . . . 126
Sugar, a new kind of . . . . . 14
Superstition, influence of, upon the Scotch fishermen . . 146. 152. 164
Swain, John, remarkable leap of . . 253
Swan's nest, the romance of the . . 134
Swiss, origin of the love of the, for liberty, 132.; the simplicity of the laws of the . . . . . 132
Sword, the legend of the bright . . 293
Syro-Egyptian Society, meetings of the 313, 331

Tabebbs, description of the . . . 44
Table d'hote, a tale of the . . . . 77
Talfourd, Serjeant, memoir of . . . 163
Tattooing, mode of, in Abyssinia . . 92
Tell, William, a scene from the life of . 132
Temples of Ceylon, description of the . 44
Theatres, remarks on the:—the Olympic, 248.; the Haymarket . . . 264
"Thirty Years' War," the horrors of the . . . . . 110
Tiger, anecdote of a . . . . . 92
Tight lacing, evil effects of . . . 265
Toads, tenacity of life in . . . . 250
Toad fish, description of the . . . 236
Tobacco smoking, prevalence of, in France, 175.; interdiction of, in Abyssinia . . . . . 102
Toper, anecdote of a . . . . . 152
Trade, account of How it supersedes Feudalism . . . . . 30
Treasure-seeker, translation of Goethe's poem of the . . . . . 173
Tripoli powder, description of . . . 80
Trollope, Mrs., review of her novel of "Young Love" . . . . . 260
Turks of Algiers, description of the . 267
Turtle, novel exportation of . . . 299
"Twilight," lines on . . . . . 67
Twiss, Horace, memoir of . . . . 187

Valetta, description of the town of . 302

"Walks in the Country," review of Lord Leigh's poems of . . . . 65
Wallingford, Miles, the adventures of 38. 208. 220. 224. 228.
"Wandering Angel," review of the . 90
"Wandering Jew," review of Sué's novel of the . . . . . 6
War, anecdotes of an old soldier, respecting the horrors of . . . . 176
Warner's Long Range, lines on . . 299
Washing in Abyssinia, mode of . . 280
"Waterton's Autobiography," review of . . . . . 60
Weather, means of foretelling the . . 259
Weymouth, discovery of antiquarian remains at . . . . . 263
Whale, error respecting the spouting of the . . . . . 193
Whipper-in, a French, description of . 123
Whitebait at Greenwich, description of a dinner of . . . . . 13
"Whittier's Poems," review of . . . 180
Wigan's "Duality of the Mind," review 336
Wildfowl shooting, the secret of . . 173
"Wild Love," lines from . . . . 159
William the Conqueror, funeral of, 250.; the ravages committed by, 279.; arbitrary laws of, relating to hunting . 283
Wilson, Professor, memoir of . . . 90
"Windsor in the Old Time," review of . . . . . 135
Windsor in the fourteenth century, description of . . . . 164. 200
Witches of Gatehead, Wilson's account of the . . . . . 104. 114
Women of Egypt, the condition of the 145
Women of Smyrna, description of the . 200
Word Introductory, A . . . . . 1
Wordsworth, lines of, on the formation of a railroad to Winandermere . 301
Workmen, manner of impressing, in the reign of Edward III. . . . . 138

Young England's Creed, lines descriptive of . . . . . 279
"Young Love," review of the novel of 260
"Young Widow," reviews of the . 62. 72
Young's "Providence of God," review of . . . . . 112

Zobeir, description of the city of . 49